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NERCHE NEW ENGLAND
RESOURCE CENTER for
HIGHER EDUCATION

NERCHE Bulletin

November 18, 2010 ♦ Vol. 6, Issue 1

NERCHE is committed to collaborative change processes in higher education to address social justice in a diverse democracy.

The New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE) is a center for inquiry, research, and policy.

NERCHE supports administrators, faculty, and staff across the region in becoming more effective practitioners and leaders as they navigate the complexities of institutional innovation and change.

NERCHE

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The *NERCHE Bulletin* is an electronic newsletter intended to inform higher education administrators, faculty, and staff across New England about recent NERCHE events and activities.

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NERCHE presents the Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty

On Monday, October 25, 2010, NERCHE presented the 2010 Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty to **Dr. Eugene Walls**, Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver, at the annual conference of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities in Fresno, California.

Dr. Walls has established lasting partnerships with several agencies in Colorado, focusing on the needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) community. Viewing collaboration with community partners as indispensable in efforts to give a voice to historically marginalized groups, Dr. Walls has worked with the GLBT Community Center of Colorado to educate non-GLBT faculty on risk and resilience factors of sexual minority youth; with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment around HIV prevention for gay men in rural settings; and with Denver's youth shelter, Urban Peak, to understand the psychosocial risks for GLBT and non-GLBT homeless youth. He assists grassroots agencies in improving their data-collection methods and developing tools to enhance funding opportunities, while also relying upon the expertise of members of those communities.

[Read more about the 2010 Lynton Award presentation...](#)

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Community College Transfer Initiative evaluation findings presented at Jack Kent Cooke conference

In September 2010, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation hosted a conference, "Partnerships that Promote Success: Transfer from Community Colleges to Selective Four-Year Institutions," in Washington, D.C., highlighting the efforts of eight colleges and universities and their 60 community college partners who have been a part of the Foundation's Community College Transfer Initiative (CCTI) aimed at increasing access for high-achieving, low-income community college students to highly selective campuses.

As the evaluators of CCTI, NERCHE, in partnership with the Center for Youth and Communities at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management, presented selected findings from the evaluation—focusing on promising practices and lessons learned—to an audience of higher education administrators, faculty, researchers, and others from across the nation.

[Read more about the CCTI evaluators' findings...](#)

Project Compass campuses make presentations at AAC&U Diversity Conference

The conference, "Facing the Divides: Diversity, Learning and Pathways to Inclusive Excellence," held in Houston TX, from October 21-23, 2010, provided an opportunity for representatives from Project Compass-funded institutions to showcase particular strategies that their campuses are employing to create broad, systemic change oriented towards making these organizations more responsive to students from underserved populations.

In addition, **Glenn Gabbard** (Project Compass director) and **Thara Fuller** (project coordinator) spoke about the role NERCHE plays as the funder's intermediary for Project Compass, including designing project structures and processes aimed at supporting the change process at the funded institutions.

[Read more about Project Compass presentations at the AAC&U conference...](#)

CSU-AAUP Workload Study completed

NERCHE recently concluded an independent, comprehensive study of faculty and professional employee workloads within the Connecticut State University system. The research team was led by **Dr. Jay Dee**, Associate Professor in the Higher Education Doctoral Program at UMass Boston, and included **Dr. Glenn Gabbard**, Associate Director, and **Sharon Singleton**, Senior Program and Research Associate, from NERCHE and **Nancy M. Ludwig**, Director of Institutional Research at Northeastern University.

Commissioned by the CSU-AAUP, this 16-month workload study examined full-time and part-time CSU faculty workloads; workloads across academic departments and between graduate and undergraduate programs of study; policies and practices associated with teaching-load adjustments; the relationship between faculty workloads (including opportunities for professional development) and practices that support student learning and retention; effects of workload on recruitment, retention, and career satisfaction of faculty; and workload issues for other academic professionals, including librarians, coaches, and counselors. In addition, NERCHE conducted an analysis of the relationship between faculty workload and student outcomes reported in state accountability reports, as well as a longitudinal analysis of

trends in faculty workload.

NERCHE Visiting Scholar co-authors survey of COPC-funded institutions

Armand Carriere, 2010-2011 NERCHE Visiting Scholar, along with **Margaret Brabant** and **Donald Braid** from Butler University, have co-authored a survey that is part of the pilot phase of a research project examining the impact of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC) program upon universities and colleges. The project will also attempt to document the impact of COPC activities in the community.

The survey has been distributed to individuals who are still closely aligned with programming that either began with, or was augmented by, COPC funding between 1994 and 2005. Upon receiving the initial survey responses, the co-authors will refine the survey tool based on these results and on participant feedback. The survey group will then be broadened to include other institutions that received COPC funding.

NERCHE will assist with the administration and management of the survey. The co-authors intend to share the results of the survey with officials at HUD's Office of University Partnership and other appropriate policy makers.

NERCHE Visiting Scholars receive awards at IARSLCE Conference

At the 10th annual conference of the International Association for Research on Service-learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE), which focused on "International Perspectives: Crossing Boundaries through Research" and was held October 28-30, 2010 in Indianapolis, NERCHE Visiting Scholars **Timothy Eatman, Elaine Ward, and Edward Zlotkowski** (who is also a NERCHE Senior Associate), achieved awards for their contributions to community engagement.

[Read more about the IARSLCE Conference awards...](#)

NERCHE Think Tanks

In 1988 NERCHE inaugurated its first Think Tank for administrators from colleges and universities across New England to provide opportunities to reflect on their practice, learn from each other and from the literature, and tackle shared problems.

Since that time, NERCHE has instituted additional Think Tanks to serve the needs of a range of administrators, faculty, and students in the region. The Think Tanks embody the essence of NERCHE's work—collaboration, diversity, and scholarship rooted in practice. Members are drawn from a diverse group of regional institutions and represent skilled leaders with a commitment to higher education and a willingness to engage contemporary challenges in higher education with thoughtfulness and creativity. NERCHE convenes Think Tanks for Chief Academic Officers, Academic Deans, Associate Academic Deans, Department Chairs, Chief Student Affairs Officers, Multicultural Affairs Officers, Chief Financial Officers, Faculty involved in Community Engaged Scholarship, and Students involved in Civic and Community Engagement.

[Learn more about NERCHE's Think Tanks...](#)

Student Think Tank on Community and Civic Engagement

For the 2010-2011 academic year, NERCHE is facilitating the inaugural Student Think Tank on Community and Civic Engagement. The Think Tank comprises a series of meetings for undergraduate students from across New England interested in civic leadership and community engagement. Specifically, the meetings focus on the theme of "Students as Colleagues," following the 2006 Campus Compact publication of the same title.

[Read more about NERCHE's Student Think Tank...](#)

NERCHE at the Graduate College of Education, UMass Boston has received support from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, Lumina Foundation, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, The Institute for College Access and Success, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Exxon Education Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Education Resources Institute, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

For more information about any of the above events or activities, please contact NERCHE at (617) 287-7740 or via email at nerche@umb.edu.

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